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the interest in the "Junior debates" pervades the entire school, it might be added that at the closing debate of the series recently given, just 90 people were crowded into an average classroom and there was not the slightest trace of disorder.

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*To the Editor of the "English Journal":*

I have just finished reading Professor Alden's article in the current number of the *English Journal* entitled, "The College Curriculum in Literature." "What teacher of English," he says, "if himself really educated, has not envied, now and then, his colleagues engaged in these other fields, because they have always to deal with a body of knowledge of a substantial and continuous character, such as offers this wholesome resistance to the student's mind?"

Now, I have always thanked God that I was just one of those same impossible teachers! I have never during seven years of college and four of normal-school teaching for one single moment envied my colleagues; I have, on the other hand, always felt sorry for them. Of course I must assume that I am "educated," but I take courage since Professor Alden by the nature of his question assumes as much for himself and really does not consider himself at all "a second-rate sensitive professor."

But, O dear! there is so much in this article to make one discouraged with his education! Think of those endless "reading courses" we used to take in Chicago—how little of the "social and anthropological aspects of particular ages and groups" we got, and how much of McClintock and Miss Reynolds and Tolman and Moody we got instead! Then to think that some of us were led to search for the "critical and philosophical basis" of literature by the love of literature itself—we had so much feeling in those dark days and so little "human intelligence"!

Then since reading this article I remember with humiliation the times I have felt "guilty or triumphant." I remember especially the time that the late Mr. Moody read Clough's "Ite Domum Saturae venit Hesperus," and I felt triumphant and I glowed with the triumph—glowed for fourteen years with it—glowed up to this very evening! But now the glow has become a blush, for I suspect I got a credit in "Victorian Literature" partly on the strength of that glow. How dishonest we were in those days!

Still, there is another thing that diminishes my self-respect and makes me feel very sad. It seems that the average college student can really

know a great deal. Indeed all his time is spent in the acquisition of knowledge. When he receives his A.B. degree he will know, among many other useful things, at least two foreign languages and these so well that the corresponding literatures will be forever open to him. I think now forlornly of my own case; how, when I left my Alma Mater I could read Latin and Greek at sight, and then how soon I forgot them both—forgot absolutely! I think, too, with shame how years afterward I had to read Palmer and Lang and Williams before I could see the poetry of Homer and Virgil. I missed so much in not having a teacher who could quote Milton and Pope! But it is hard to find even an English teacher today who has read *Paradise Lost* all the way through—and Pope has long been in a decline. (But how that old Greek teacher of mine could quote Aeschylus and Sophocles and Homer! I wish I knew my Greek and Latin and German and French and Hebrew and Arabic and Sanskrit like that old Greek teacher of mine!)

But most of all I feel that my teaching has been in vain. It has all been built on air.

Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny  
What I have spoke.

For now I see that all these years in which I have striven "to develop and increase the love of good literature" have been wasted. This I now see is the function of teaching literature exactly as it is the "function of every postoffice clerk to promote patriotism."

And Shakespeare, my beloved! I see his accusing eyes—"You would know me, you would teach me! 'Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play upon me: you would seem to know my stops'—and you have forgotten your Sophocles, and Racine you never knew!"

And "Bacon and Lamb"! Now, good Lord, my gorge rises, for I swallowed that feast long ago without the pure, sweet spice of Montaigne!

Very truly yours,

W. W. FROST

MANKATO, MINN.

*To the Editor of the "English Journal":*

If the reviewer in last month's *Journal* signing himself "J. D. J." will consult *Webster's New International Dictionary*, he will find that his stricture on the use of "relations" for "relatives" is not supported by the best authority. Indeed, much the fuller definition is given under "relation."

GILBERT COSULICH